

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed February 11, 2009, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicant submits the following remarks and has cancelled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-56 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 54-56 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the content of cancelled dependent claims 54 and 55 and claim 20 has been amended to include the content of cancelled claim 56. Also, independent claim 37 has been amended to include the content of cancelled claim 56. The amendment of claims 1, 20, and 37 does not add new matter to the Application and does not raise new matters requiring further searching and consideration. Additionally by this amendment, claims 5, 6, 8-10, 22, 23, 25-27, 39, 40, and 42-44 have been cancelled. Cancellation of these claims should not be construed as an acquiescence to any of the rejections. Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute at least some of the cancelled claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7, 11-21, 24, 28-38, 41, and 45-53 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 20, and 37 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 55 and 56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 55 has been rewritten in independent form (i.e., independent claim 20 has been amended) to include the limitations of the base claim (i.e., claim 1) and the limitations of the intervening claims (i.e., claim 54). Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is in allowable condition. Because claims 2-4, 7, and 11-19 depend

from and further limit claim 1, claims 2-4, 7, and 11-19 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claim 56 has been rewritten in independent form (i.e., independent claim 1 has been amended) to include the limitations of the base claim (i.e., claim 20) and the limitations of any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 20 as amended is in allowable condition. Because claims 21, 24, and 28-36 depend from and further limit claim 20, claims 21, 24, and 28-36 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Additionally, independent claim 37 has been amended to include the content of allowable claim 56. The amendment of claim 37 does not add new matter to the Application and does not raise new matters requiring further searching and consideration. Accordingly, claim 37 as amended is in allowable condition. Because claims 38, 41, and 45-53 depend from and further limit claim 37, claims 38, 41, and 45-53 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claim Objections

Claims 54-56 were objected to for various informalities. The Final Office Action has asserted that in claim 54, line 3, the term "about" is not a positive limitation.

As indicated above, claims 54-56 have been cancelled with claim 1 having been amended to include the content of cancelled dependent claims 54 and 55 and claims 20 and 37 amended to include the content of cancelled claim 56. With the amendments to claims 1, 20, and 37, the term "about" has not been included. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffrey J. Duquette/

Jeffrey J. Duquette, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 45,487
Bainwood, Huang & Associates, L.L.C.
Highpoint Center
2 Connector Road
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
Telephone: (508) 616-2900
Facsimile: (508) 366-4688

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